



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Southern Region • 650 Addison Ave W, Suite 500 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-5858

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

December 28, 2015

BIG WOOD CANAL CO
C/O CRAIG HOBDEY
PO BOX 176
GOODING, ID 83330

RE: Applications for Extension of Time to Avoid Forfeiture of Water Right No(s). 37-444, 37-7636A

Dear Protestant(s):

This office acknowledges receipt of your protests to the issuance of the above referenced application no(s). 37-444 and 37-7636A. As part of the application process, the following options are available for the resolution of contested (protested) applications:

- Direct contact with the applicant(s) to determine the nature of the protest(s) and to attempt to resolve the protest. Sincere conversation between the parties prior to initiation of formal proceedings can often resolve protest(s).
- Formal proceedings administered by the Department pursuant to the Department's Rule of Procedure (IDAPA 37.01.01). A pre-hearing conference identifies the protestant's concerns and reviews the resolution possibilities with the parties. If the concerns cannot be resolved, a formal hearing will be scheduled.
- Mediation through a certified professional mediator can reduce costs and time that are influence over a final settlement, and fast track the processing of the application if a mediated agreement is reached.

Please consider with the applicant the best option(s) for resolution of the contested application and forward your choice to the Department's regional manager. If no response is received within a few weeks, you may be notified that a pre-hearing conference will be scheduled.

You may contact this office if you have any questions regarding the procedure discussed in this letter or additional information about water rights and other matters administered by this agency is available on the Internet at www.idwr.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Denise Maline

for: Allen Merritt
Southern Regional Manager

Enclosure(s) Pre-Hearing Conference Procedures

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND/OR HEARING PROCEDURE APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO AVOID FORFEITURE OF A WATER RIGHT

ISSUES

Applications for Extension of Time to Avoid Forfeiture of a Water Right are filed for the purpose of extending the time for forfeiture for non-use of the right or rights. Section 42-222, Idaho Code, identifies the following potential issues for the department to consider in connection with an application for Extension of Time to Avoid Forfeiture of a Water Right:

1. Will granting an extension of time impair other rights?
2. Is there good cause for the non-use of the right or rights?

BURDEN OF PROOF

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1 & 2 above and must provide evidence for the department to evaluate these criteria.

PROCEDURE

The department generally conducts an informal conference with the parties to determine the issues and to try to settle a protested matter before a hearing is scheduled. If a hearing is held, the department will issue a written decision based on the hearing record.

CONFERENCE

The purpose of a pre-hearing conference is to provide the opportunity for the parties and the department to familiarize themselves with a contested matter and to attempt to resolve the matter. At the conference, the department may also formulate and simplify the issues to avoid unnecessary proof, identify documents, schedule discovery, exchange proposed exhibits or prepared testimony, limit witnesses, discuss settlement or make settlement offers, schedule hearings, establish procedure at hearing, and address other matters that may expedite orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding or its settlement. When attending the conference, please bring a calendar with your schedule for the next two–six month period from the date of the prehearing conference for the purpose of scheduling a hearing. Parties will be expected to discuss their availability at the prehearing conference for the purpose of scheduling the hearing.

HEARING

A hearing may be conducted according to Sections 42-1701A(1) and (2), Idaho Code and the department's Rules of Procedure. Copies of Idaho Code and the department's rules are available upon request or by accessing the department's website at: www.idwr.idaho.gov. The department records formal hearings, and copies of a hearing recording are available upon request. There may be a charge for reproducing the recording.

The hearing will likely be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Director rather than by the Director himself. If so, the hearing officer will prepare a recommended or preliminary order. Parties can petition for reconsideration of a decision or file exceptions. A brief to support exceptions may request oral argument. Parties may seek judicial review of any final order issued by the Director.

EXHIBITS

A party who plans to offer an exhibit as part of the hearing record must provide a copy of the proposed exhibit to the parties and to the hearing officer.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Any hearing scheduled will be conducted in a facility which meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the hearing, please notify the department no later than ten (10) days prior to the hearing.